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District Engineer

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District Manager

Marcia Maurer
Chief Financial Officer

September 12, 2008

Phillip L. Isenberg, Chair
Richard M. Frank, Member
Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force
650 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Messrs. Isenberg and Frank:

I received a copy of your September 3 letter to Paul Hahn, Municipal Services Agency Administrator for the County of Sacramento (written in response to his August 13 letter to the Task Force), and am compelled to correct some critical misperceptions and misunderstandings. I hope to facilitate for you and the rest of the Task Force a better understanding of the Regional County Sanitation District's (SRCSD) position and our commitment to the protection of the Delta ecosystem and the water supplies it provides.

Specific points that appear to need clarification are that:

1. The County of Sacramento and Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) are separate entities and act independently of each other.

- Paul Hahn's August 13 letter was not written on behalf of the SRCSD nor was it intended to represent our position (However, the County's letter to you made reference to SRCSD and ammonia and they attached our previous comment letter to their letter).
- SRCSD is an independent sanitation district established under the Health and Safety Code of California and is not a division or unit of Sacramento County or the Municipal Services Agency.
- The connection between SRCSD and the County of Sacramento is simply administrative in nature - our staff is provided by the County. SRCSD serves 1.3 million people in the region including Sacramento County, the cities of Elk Grove, Citrus Heights, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, Sacramento, and West Sacramento in Yolo County.

2. SRCSD is committed to finding solutions to protect the Delta's ecosystem and ensure its sustainability.

- SRCSD has long been committed to protecting the environment and will implement appropriate measures that are objectively determined to be necessary to provide reasonable protection of the Delta's beneficial uses. To date, no significant impacts to Delta beneficial uses have been linked to SRCSD's discharge and SRCSD is in compliance with current water quality objectives and USEPA aquatic life criteria for ammonia.
- SRCSD supports research efforts now underway and, is in fact, working with the Regional Water Quality Control Board on two ammonia related studies. In our comments to the Task Force we have consistently requested that any proposed Delta solution, including potential advanced treatment at the Sacramento Regional Water Treatment Plant (SRWTP), must:
 - Be definitively supported by science – not based on assumptions, assertions and allegations – to identify relevant and cost effective solutions.
 - Not place a disproportionate burden on Sacramento area ratepayers or upstream users, particularly since nearly every Californian benefits in some way from the Delta's water supply.
 - Provide measurable benefits to the Delta ecosystem, especially if it carries significant costs to taxpayers/ratepayers.
 - Be the product of transparent public processes driven by robust stakeholder involvement and governance.

3. SRCSD welcomes every opportunity to participate in the Delta Vision and related processes and expects the needs and concerns of all stakeholders will be given full consideration.

- Although we have not been permitted to participate on the Delta Vision Stakeholder Coordination Group or with the various Delta Vision work groups, we have been actively engaged throughout the Delta Vision process providing testimony and submitting comment letters. We are pleased that latest draft of the Strategic Plan addressed many of our comments.
- As various Delta efforts continue to move forward, representation in these processes must be balanced among all engaged interests.
- Any new governance structure, such as the California Delta Ecosystem and Water Council, the Public Advisory Group and the Science and Engineering Board must provide wastewater representation.

4. SRCSD has a strong operational track record and history of environmental stewardship.

- The SRWTP has an outstanding record of compliance, regularly outperforming its permit requirements and acting as a proactive stakeholder in the Sacramento watershed. The SRWTP is operating under an existing permit (not a waiver).

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- SRCSD uses state-of-the-art tools and information, a variety of proven data and an extensive and robust monitoring program to ensure the region's water quality and plans to meet future treatment needs based on sound science.
- The District has conducted exhaustive studies and years of research to ensure that the levels of treatment proposed at the SRWTP, and the pollutant-reducing programs in which the District is engaged, provide the highest degree of environmental protection at the most reasonable cost.
- The District partners on several public education campaigns to promote conservation and reduce the amount of harmful substances such as Mercury and pesticides from entering Sacramento's water supply.

We hope that this information will ensure the public record more accurately reflects our organization's structure, intentions and key positions. If you would like to discuss this further you can reach me at (916) 876-6105. I would welcome that opportunity.

Sincerely,



Mary K. Snyder
District Engineer

cc:

SRCSD Board of Directors

Sacramento County Executive

Sacramento County Counsel

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Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force Members